



Senior Citizen Exemption Program

In Clark County, we have an appreciation of our seniors as valued members of our community. They have contributed in many ways, and many are still contributing, to the Clark County we know today.

This appreciation is also reflected in state law, and what is commonly known as the "senior exemption program." The intention of this program is to allow our seniors to remain in their homes as long as they choose in spite of rising property taxes. The exemption program "freezes" the assessed value of the applicant's primary residence and reduces the tax amount due based on the applicant's level of income. The exemption program is a gift, and these taxes are not repaid.

The basic requirements are: being **61 years** of age or

older (or being disabled, or having a 100% VA disability), **owning and residing in your home**, and your taxable and non-taxable **income not exceeding \$35,000**.

Currently, your tax bill is calculated by multiplying the assessed value of your home by your tax rate. The exemption program freezes the value of your residence, exempts all voter-approved levies (such as school bonds) and may exempt a portion of regular levies. If your household income is \$25,000 or less, you are exempt from regular levies on the first \$60,000, or 60% of your home's assessed value, whichever is greater. When your household income is between \$25,001 and



\$30,000, you are exempt from regular levies on \$50,000 or 35% of the assessed value, whichever is greater, not to exceed \$70,000 of the assessed value. This results in

"freezing" the value of your residence and providing you with a reduction in your property taxes. Although the assessed value of your home may

continue to increase, your tax bill will be calculated using the "frozen" value.

To request an application form, or to get further information, telephone Clark County Department of Assessment and GIS at (360) 397-2391. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. On Wednesday office hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Missing Project Lifesaver Client Found

For several years, Sgt. Craig Hogman, a veteran of the Clark County Sheriff's Office, has been spreading the word about Project Lifesaver, a program in which Alzheimer's patients, and others who are at risk of getting lost, are outfitted with a small transmitter which aids searchers in locating them in the event they become lost. Since 2001, when the program was implemented, no one who has been fitted with a transmitter has actually gone missing.

That all changed on May 21st, 2006 at about 2:00 PM when Sgt. Hogman received an emergency call that a Project Lifesaver client was missing. He was told that an 87-year-old woman, Bong Soon O of La Center, was missing and had not been seen for over an hour. Sgt. Hogman, who was off-duty, alerted area search and rescue teams of the mission and then responded to the search area with a mobile locator tracking system.

Project Lifesaver is based on a system in which the client wears a bracelet outfitted with a transmitter. The transmitter emits a signal which can be picked up by a mobile locator tracking system which contains a receiver. The receiver emits an audible signal which tells the operator

how close he or she is to the transmitter based on the strength of the signal.

Sgt. Hogman knew that time was critical. As soon as Sgt. Hogman arrived in the La Center area, he started to drive north toward Woodland because witnesses had reported possibly seeing Bong Soon O walking in that direction. Within minutes of starting his search, Sgt. Hogman's tracking gear started to receive a faint signal that grew stronger as he drove north on NW Pacific Highway. Ridgefield Police Officer Cathy Doriot was in the area to assist in the search, and based upon the strong tracking signal, she decided to check a small rural road which runs west off of NW Pacific Highway. This intersection was in the area where Sgt. Hogman was receiving a strong signal so he knew Bong Soon O had to be close by. Within moments of heading west from Sgt. Hogman's location, Officer Doriot located Bong Soon O at the dead end of the rural road. Thankfully, Bong Soon

O was unhurt and was quickly reunited with her family.

This case dramatically illustrates the effectiveness of the Project Lifesaver program. Currently there are approximately 16 families who are enrolled in Project Lifesaver but it is believed there are many more families



Sgt. Hogman, Bong Soon O and Officer Doriot

who could benefit from becoming involved in this lifesaving effort. Project Lifesaver is not limited to only Alzheimer's patients but may also be appropriate for other clients who have a tendency to wander. Other clients

who might benefit are autistic children, children with Downs Syndrome, or people suffering from traumatic brain injuries.

If you know someone who might benefit from Project Lifesaver, please contact Sgt. Hogman at (360) 397-2211. Sgt. Hogman will be speaking about Project Lifesaver at the picnic on July 17th (see back for picnic details). Additional information regarding Project Lifesaver can be found on the web at www.projectlifesaver.org.

Connections Café Opens

“Healthy choices for a healthy lifestyle”

Connections Café is not your ordinary coffee shop. Located in the new Firstenburg Community Center, the Connections Café offers a variety of healthy menu items to choose from including salads, wraps, energy bars and much more.

The Connections Café is a project of Volunteer Connections (which includes RSVP and the Volunteer Center).

Volunteer Connections is a program of the Human Services Council, a non-profit corporation whose mission is to improve people's lives by connecting them to opportunities, information and services that respond to their individual and family needs. Thousands of people in our community have a better quality of life because of the services these programs provide.



Proceeds from the café will go to support services, connecting volunteers to assignments with local non-profit organizations, and volunteer projects which include an AmeriCorps*VISTA program, the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) program, Volunteer Pen Pal program, America Reads program, and the local 1-800-Volunteer website.

This café reflects a growing trend in the non-profit world, developing fundraising ventures that in turn support community services. This has been driven by the diminishing financial resources while the demands for services continue to grow. Other similar projects in our community include the Holiday Shop and Devine Consign, an upscale furniture re-sale shop that supports the Non-profit Network and other local non-profits.

Connections Café

Firstenburg
Community Center
700 NE 136th Ave.
Vancouver, WA

*Interested in
volunteering?*

*Call Bobbi
Casanova at
360-624-9025*

Second Segment of Safety Commercials Airs on CVTV

Last summer the Clark County Sheriff's Office aired it's first safety commercial on CVTV, public access television. The first segment featured Deputy Drew who focused on water safety.

The second segment, which began airing in June, will offer safety tips on outdoor safety for hikers, campers and outdoor enthusiasts.

The safety commercials were created to be a service to the community by providing helpful tips for a safe and enjoyable summer. "This is an excellent opportunity to assist the community using our local media services," stated Detective Phil Sample.

Public Access
Television is
on Cable
Channel 23.



To be placed on the mailing list to receive the *free* S.A.L.T. Times Newsletter, call the Sheriff's Office Outreach Unit at 397-2211 ext. 3380 or e-mail Kasey.Frazier@clark.wa.gov

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